

Serial No.: 10/698,112
Art Unit: 3732

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraphs and sections on Page 1 of the Specification with the following new paragraphs and sections, which are marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. Newly added paragraphs and sections to Page 1 have not been underlined in accordance with Patent Office rules.

TITLE

ULTRASONIC DENTAL SCALER INSERT WITH SOFT GRIP AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The invention generally provides an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip, and a method of making it. More particularly, the soft grip member is made from an elastomer and rigid polymer.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a method of making an ultrasonic dental scaler insert having a soft grip. The scaler insert includes a tip, connector body, and magnetostrictive member. The soft grip member has an elastomeric outer wall bonded to a rigid polymeric inner wall. The soft grip member is affixed to the scaler insert in such a manner that the rigid polymeric inner wall of the soft grip circumscribes the connector body of the insert. The soft grip member may be attached by snap-fitting the grip onto the connector body. Once the soft grip is attached to the insert, it provides a comfortable, non-slip surface for the dental professional. The elastomeric outer wall reduces the vibrations transmitted to the hand of the person using the instrument. In one embodiment, the soft grip member is made by adhering a first soft grip half-section member to a second soft grip half-section member. Each half-section member includes an elastomeric outer wall and rigid polymer inner wall. The half-section members may be adhered together with a suitable adhesive.